

SEER Site-Specific Coding Guidelines**BONES, JOINTS, AND ARTICULAR CARTILAGE C400–C419****PERIPHERAL NERVES AND AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM C470–C479****CONNECTIVE, SUBCUTANEOUS, AND OTHER SOFT TISSUES C490–C499**

(Except for M-9750, 9760-9764, 9800-9820, 9826, 9831-9920, 9931-9964, 9980-9989)

Laterality

Laterality is required for sites C40.0-C40.3, C41.3-C41.4, C47.1-C47.2, and C49.1-C49.2.

EXCEPTION: *Sternum, sacrum, coccyx, and symphysis pubis should be coded to laterality 0.*

Three Grade System (Nuclear Grade)

There are several sites for which a three-grade system is used. The patterns of cell growth are measured on a scale of 1, 2, and 3 (also referred to as low, medium, and high grade). This system measures the proportion of cancer cells that are growing and making new cells and how closely they resemble the cells of the host tissue. Thus, it is similar to a four-grade system, but simply divides the spectrum into three rather than four categories (see comparison table below). The expected outcome is more favorable for lower grades. Soft tissue sarcomas are evaluated using a three-grade system.

If a grade is written as 2/3 that means this is a grade 2 of a three-grade system. Do not simply code the numerator. Use the following table to convert the grade to ICD-0-3 Morphology 6th Digit Code:

Term	Grade	ICD-0-3 Morphology 6 th Digit Code
1/3, 1/2	Low grade	2
2/3	Intermediate grade	3
3/3, 2/2	High grade	4

Sarcoma

Sarcomas are graded low, intermediate or high grade by the pathologist. Use the following table to convert these terms to a histologic grade.

Term	Grade	ICD-0-3 Morphology 6 th Digit Code
Well differentiated	I	1
Fairly well differentiated	II	2
Low grade	I-II	2
Mid differentiated	II	2
Moderately differentiated	II	2
Partially differentiated	II	2
Partially well differentiated	I-II	2
Partially well differentiated	II	2
Relatively or generally well differentiated	II	2
Medium grade, intermediate grade	II-III	3